

U.S. Immigrant Visas Guidebook for Jamaica



U.S. Embassy Kingston

Updated 08 April 2014

I am a U.S. Citizen and I am filing for my...

- [Husband/Wife \(IR1/CR1\)](#)
- [Child \(Under Age 21\) \(IR2/CR2\)](#)
- [Parent \(IR5\)](#)
- [Adopted Child \(IR3/IR4\)](#)
- [Unmarried Adult Child \(Over Age 21\) \(F1, F12\)](#)
- [Married Child \(F3\)](#)
- [Brother/Sister \(F4\)](#)
- [Fiancé/Fiancée \(K1\)](#)

I am a Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder) and I am filing for my...

- [Husband/Wife \(F2A\)](#)
- [Child \(Under Age 21\) \(F2A\)](#)
- [Unmarried Adult Child \(F2B\)](#)

Click the link above that applies to you and you will be brought to a checklist that lists all the documents and information that each applicant will have to provide in order to successfully complete the visa process. In most cases, the documents should be brought to the interview if the documents have not already been submitted.



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IR1/CR1 Filing for your husband or wife	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate <i>Used to verify the identity of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Certificate <i>Used to verify that a legal marriage exists between the petitioner and the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



IR2/CR2	
Filing for your child or step-child (21 and under)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth Certificate <i>Used to verify the identity of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Certificate (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Exam <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-Child specific required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage Certificate <i>Used to verify that a legal marriage exists between the petitioner and the biological parent</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of Cohabitation or Proof of Relationship <i>Used to verify that the petitioner and the biological parent live in the same household or have a bona fide marriage</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption Certificate <i>Used to verify that the child has legally been adopted by the petitioner and qualifies to be petitioned for as a child of a U.S. citizen</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



IR3/IR4 Filing for your adopted son or daughter	
Initial Step	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-600A and/or I-600 <i>Petitions filed with USCIS in the United States to begin the adoption process.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required documents for interview:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's original Birth Certificate <i>Used to verify the identity of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption Order or License (Handled by Jamaica's Child Development Agency) <i>Used to show the relationship of the child and the petitioner</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage Certificate <i>Used to show relationship between prospective adoptive parents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death Certificate of Child's parents (if they are deceased) <i>Used to show relationship between prospective adoptive parents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Embassy may contact you when it is time to bring in the following documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Certificate (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Exam <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: The Embassy may require an Orphan Status Verification depending on the facts of your case. If verification is required you may be asked for additional documents at that time. You will be told at your interview if we need to verify your child's orphan status.

For more general information on adoptions, [click here](#).



IR5	
Filing for your parent	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Birth Certificate</u> <i>Used to verify the identity of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Petitioner Birth Certificate</u> <i>Used to verify the parental relationship between the petitioner and applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Police Certificate</u> (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Medical Exam</u> <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Affidavit of Support</u> (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support</u> (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Name Change</u> (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Proof of Relationship</u> (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DNA Test Results</u> <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



F1	
Filing for your unmarried adult son/daughter (and his/her derivatives)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of all applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of No Impediment <i>Used to verify that the applicant is eligible for this visa class</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required for derivatives (F12/F25):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the principal applicant and the derivative child is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the principal applicant and the derivative child (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



F3	
Filing for your married son/daughter (and their spouse and/or children)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of all applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Certificate <i>Used to verify that a legal marriage exists between the principal applicant and the spouse (F32)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required for children (F33):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship of between the principal applicant and the derivative child is legitimate.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the principal applicant and their children (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



F4	
Filing for your brother/sister (and their spouse and/or children)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of all applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitioner Birth Certificate <i>Used to verify the biological relationship between the petitioner and the applicant via a common parent. Names must be legally traceable (See Name Change).</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicants and the parent they have in common</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Certificate <i>Used to verify that a legal marriage exists between the principal applicant and the spouse (F42)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship of each sibling with the biological parent is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant via a common parent (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required for children (F43):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship of between the principal applicant and the derivative child is legitimate.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the principal applicant and their children (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



F2A	
Filing for your spouse or child	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of all applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Certificate for spouses (F21) <i>Used to verify that a legal marriage exists between the petitioner and the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required for children (F22):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship of between the principal applicant and the derivative child is legitimate.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



F2B	
Filing for your unmarried adult son/daughter (and his/her derivatives)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of all applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of No Impediment <i>Used to verify that the applicant is eligible for this visa class</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-864, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-864, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicants</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant (Suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required for derivatives (F12/F25):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship of between the principal applicant and the derivative child is legitimate.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA Test Results <i>Scientifically verifies biological relationship between the petitioner and applicant suggested when Proof of Relationship documents are insufficient</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



K1	
Filing for your fiancé(e) (and their children)	
Required documents:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth Certificate(s) <i>Used to verify the identity of the applicant(s)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of No Impediment <i>Used to verify that the applicant is eligible to enter a legal marriage</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Certificate(s) (Required for anyone age 16 and above) <i>Used to verify that there are no criminal ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant(s) from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Exam(s) <i>Used to verify that there are no medical ineligibilities that would prevent the applicant(s) from immigrating to the United States</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affidavit of Support (Petitioner I-134, Evidence of Support) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant(s)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of Relationship (photos, telephone records, etc.) <i>Used to verify that the relationship between the petitioner and applicant is legitimate</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional documents that may be required:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Sponsor Affidavit of Support (Joint Sponsor I-134, Evidence of Support, Proof of Status) <i>Used to verify that the petitioner can financially support the applicant(s)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name Change (former marriage certificates, divorce decrees, deed polls, etc.) <i>Used to verify the legal name of the applicant(s)</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>



Birth Certificate(s)

You (and any family members immigrating with you to the United States) must obtain an **ORIGINAL** birth certificate issued by the official custodian of birth records in your country of birth, showing your date of birth, place of birth, and parentage. For applicants born here in Jamaica, you can obtain your birth certificate from the [Registrar General's Department](#) through a form you can access by [clicking here](#).

Important Notice: All Immigrant Visa applicants must submit a long form original birth certificate. Short form birth certificates will not be accepted.

The certificate must contain:

- Your date of birth
- Your place of birth
- Names of both parents
- Indication by the appropriate authority that it is an extract from the official records

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Jamaican certificates must be original and on blue security paper from the Register General's Department (RGD). Birth certificates are often provided that are not on RGD's secure "blue paper." Hand written birth certificates, photocopies, and certified copies of Jamaican birth certificates cannot be accepted.
- If a parent or child has a different name today than what is listed on the birth certificate, be sure that name change can be traced on legal documents (such as marriage certificates and deed polls). See the [Name Change](#) section for more details.
- If a father-child relationship is relevant to a case, be sure the father is listed on the birth certificate or have RGD amend the birth certificate to include the father's name. If the father was added to the birth certificate years late, you should be prepared with Proof of Relationship documents to establish the parent-child relationship. A DNA test may be suggested in cases where the father was added late to the birth certificate and Proof of Relationship evidence is weak or unconvincing.



Marriage Certificate(s)

If you are married, you must obtain an **ORIGINAL** marriage certificate, or a certified copy, bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority. For applicants married here in Jamaica, it must be an **ORIGINAL** document (on secure paper) issued by the [Registrar General's Department](#). For applicants married in the United States, a certified copy is acceptable. You can obtain your marriage certificate from the [Registrar General's Department](#) through a form you can access by [clicking here](#).

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Jamaican certificates must be original and on blue security paper from the Register General's Department (RGD). **Marriage** certificates are **sometimes** provided that are not on RGD's secure "blue paper," particularly when it is a marriage not directly involving the applicant (for example, to show a name change of a parent). Hand written birth certificates, photocopies, and certified copies of Jamaican birth certificates cannot be accepted.
- If a marriage is relevant to your case beyond documenting name changes, you will also need to provide marriage certificates and divorce decrees for any prior marriages.



Death Certificate(s)

A death certificate may be requested if it is relevant for your case. Common applications that require a death certificate are in adoption cases to verify that biological parents have deceased or in cases where an applicant is being filed for under an unmarried status. For applicants that passed here in Jamaica, the death certificate must be an **ORIGINAL** document (on secure paper) issued by the [Registrar General's Department](#). For applicants married in the United States, a certified copy is acceptable. You can obtain your marriage certificate from the [Registrar General's Department](#) through a form you can access by [clicking here](#).



Certificate of No Impediment

If you are being filed for as a K visa (fiancé/fiancée) or an F2B visa (unmarried son/daughter of LPR), you must obtain an **ORIGINAL** Certificate of No Impediment issued by the [Registrar General's Department](#). A Certificate of No Impediment may also be required (but not in all cases) for F11 visas (unmarried adult child of American citizen) and sometimes other categories at the discretion of the interviewing consular officer. A Certificate of No Impediment will verify that you are not currently married, and are legally able to marry once you enter the United States or are otherwise eligible for your visa class. You cannot order this document online, you must obtain your Certificate of No Impediment from your nearest [Registrar General's Department](#) office.

Note: For those that have been married previously, you must still obtain a record from the [Registrar General's Department](#) that shows your previous marriages. You will then need to also provide the divorce decrees corresponding to those marriages to show that you are not currently married.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Some applicants fail to disclose prior marriages. Failure to disclose prior marriages along with documentation may put your petition at risk of being revoked.



Police Certificate(s)

Each visa applicant aged 16 years or older must submit police certificates.

You must submit police certificates which:

- Cover the entire period of the applicant's residence in that area
- Have been issued by the appropriate police authority
- Include all arrests, the reason for the arrest(s), and the disposition of each recorded case.

How to obtain a police certificate in Jamaica:

1. Go to any Tax Office in Jamaica to pay for your police certificate. You must bring your passport, two passport-sized photographs, your Taxpayer Registration Number (TRN) and evidence, such as a letter of instruction for visa applicants, which says that you need a police certificate for immigration purposes. You can choose express or 21-day service.

2. Take the receipt from the tax office which shows that you have paid the fee to 34 Duke St. in downtown Kingston. They will take your fingerprints and tell you when you can return to pick up your certificate.

Note: Applicants living outside of Jamaica may also need to get a Jamaican police certificate. These people will need someone living in Jamaica to apply for the certificate on their behalf. If you need do this, you must give the person applying for you notarized copies of your fingerprints, two passport sized photographs, a copy of the photo page of your passport with your biographic information on it and a letter of consent allowing them to apply for you. If you have a TRN number, you can pay the fee at any Tax Office in Jamaica, as in (1) above. If you do not have a TRN number, the fee must be paid at the Ministry of National Security 2 Oxford Road, Kingston 5. After the fee is paid, follow the process above.

You may require an additional police certificate if you have lived or worked in a country besides Jamaica. In order to determine the countries from which a police certificate is required, refer to the table below:

IF you...	AND...	Police Certificate
have been living in your country of nationality at their current residence for more than 6 months	you are 16 years old or older	Required
lived in a different part of your country of nationality for more than 6 months	you were 16 years or older at that time	Required
lived in a different country for more than 12 months	you were 16 years or older at that time	Required
were arrested for any reason	you were any age at the time of the arrest	Required



Note: Present and former residents of the United States need NOT obtain any U.S. police certificates. Police certificates from other countries may also be required at the discretion of the interviewing consular officer.

Police certificates from your country of current residence are generally valid for one year. If you have not lived in a country for over a year and have received a police certificate covering your entire time of residence in that country, you generally will not need to renew that police certificate.

Specific information on how to obtain a police certificate from every country can be found on the [Reciprocity by Country](#) page.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Many applicants have expired police certificates because police certificates from the applicant's country of residence expire after one year. Keep track of the issue date of your police certificate and recognize that you may need to get a new one in order to migrate. Only renew the police certificate if you are confident you will be able to migrate within the next year to avoid unnecessary expenditures. Note that you may also be required to get a police certificate at the instruction of the embassy or National Visa Center regardless of when you intend to migrate.
- If you have worked (even if many years ago) in other countries such as the Cayman Islands, the United Kingdom, Canada, or the Bahamas, you are likely to need a police certificate. You are advised to proactively request police certificates so as not to delay processing of your application.
- If an applicant will turn 16 before the applicant plans to migrate, the applicant will need to get a police certificate upon turning 16 even if the applicant has already been interviewed.
- Police records are checked in multiple manners. If you have been arrested or gone to court, it is better to disclose this on your application than to wait for it to be discovered through other means. There is a process for moving an application forward in most cases even if an applicant has been arrested or had other difficulty with the law. However, failure to disclose an arrest or making other misrepresentations on your application or to a consular officer may make you ineligible to receive a visa.



Medical Exam(s)

All applicants are required to have a medical exam performed as part of the immigrant visa application process. After you receive your appointment letter, please schedule your medical examination at least ten days before the date of your visa interview. The date of your visa interview appears on your appointment letter. **Failure to complete your medical examination well in advance of your visa interview may result in delays with your visa application.** You will need to bring a completed medical exam with you to your interview if the medical facility does not send the exam directly to the embassy.

There are two medical facilities authorized to perform examinations for immigrant visas, and you may have your exam done at the location most convenient for you. You must call ahead to schedule a specific appointment time and to obtain the current medical examination fees for the doctor of your choice. There are no facilities in the Cayman Islands authorized to perform medical exams.

Andrews Memorial Hospital 27 Hope Road Kingston 10 (876) 926-7401-3	Fairview Medical Suite # 5 Fairview Office Park Alice Eldemire Drive Montego Bay (876) 979-8589
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What to Bring to the Medical Exam

1. Completed medical history form (mailed with your appointment letter)
2. Appointment letter
3. Passport
4. Four (4) passport-size pictures
5. Exam and vaccination fees
6. Immunization records showing prior vaccinations
7. Reading glasses (if used)
8. All medication containers and/or most recent prescriptions

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Many applicants have expired medical exams because medical exams typically expire after 6 months. Keep track of the issue date of your medical exam and recognize that you may need to get a new one in order to migrate. Only renew the medical exam if you are confident you will be able to migrate within the next six months to avoid unnecessary expenditures. Note that you may also be required to get a medical exam at the instruction of the embassy or National Visa Center regardless of when you intend to migrate.



Proof of Relationship

All immigrant visa applicants will be expected to prove a bona fide relationship with their spouse or fiancé(e) during an interview with a U.S. consular officer. On occasion, applicants must establish a bona fide parent-child relationship (biological and emotional) or other relationship relevant to a case. Each applicant must demonstrate that their relationship was not entered into solely for immigration purposes.

During the interview, applicants will be expected to provide detailed answers to a variety of questions about their spouse, fiancé(e), child/parent, or other relationship as relevant to the visa class and particular case

In addition to answering questions, the consular officer may request documentation of the claimed relationship. The document request may include:

- Photographs together
- Copies of passport pages and airline tickets to document visits
- Phone records
- Letters or printouts of e-mails or other electronic communication
- Birth certificates of children
- Receipts showing financial support

It is not necessary to have everything, but applicants are encouraged to have an organized package of relevant materials at the interview. Cell phones, computers and tablets are not allowed into the embassy. Applicants must bring paper printouts of all materials.

It is not necessary for the petitioning spouse or fiancé(e) to come to the interview. However, they are welcome to wait in the outside waiting area. It can be helpful for them to be nearby in the event the consular officer needs to ask them questions directly.

If the applicant cannot satisfactorily demonstrate the relationship is bona fide through the interview or documents, the consular officer may request the petitioner (the spouse or fiancé(e) in the U.S.) to appear for an interview. In the case of a parent-child relationship or sibling relationship, a DNA test may be suggested when Proof of Relationship is insufficient.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- One photograph or document is rarely enough to establish Proof of Relationship. If Proof of Relationship is required or requested, make an effort to gather materials to make a strong case of a bona fide relationship to avoid delays in processing your case.



Proof of Cohabitation

All step-child immigrant visa applicants will be expected to prove a bona fide relationship between the petitioner and the biological parent during an interview with a U.S. consular officer. Each applicant must demonstrate that this relationship was not entered into solely for immigration purposes.

During the interview, applicants will be expected to provide detailed answers to a variety of questions about the relationship between the step-parent and the biological parent.

In addition to answering questions, the consular officer may request documentation of the claimed relationship. The document request may include:

- Utility Bills (electric, cable, internet)
- Driver's licenses sharing the same address
- Tax returns
- Leases
- Mortgage statements

It is not necessary to have everything, but applicants are encouraged to have an organized package of relevant materials at the interview. Cell phones, computers and tablets are not allowed into the embassy. Applicants must bring paper printouts of all materials.

It is not necessary for the petitioner or the biological parent to come to the interview. However, they are welcome to wait in the outside waiting area. It can be helpful for them to be nearby in the event the consular officer needs to ask them questions directly.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- If the parent and step parent are not living together but are still in a husband-wife relationship, Proof of Relationship may be substituted for Proof of Cohabitation.



Court Documents

If you were arrested anywhere (including the United States), you will need an official copy of the arrest report, including all charges filed against you. You will need an official record from the court that heard your case with a full and final disposition of the charges, even if they were dismissed or not prosecuted. You will need to research the law that you were charged with violating, and provide evidence of the maximum sentence and/or maximum fine that could have been imposed, not the sentence that you actually received.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Court records are checked in multiple manners. If you have been arrested or gone to court, it is better to disclose this on your application than to wait for it to be discovered through other means. There is a process for moving an application forward in most cases even if an applicant has been arrested, gone to court, been sentenced, or had other difficulty with the law. However, failure to disclose an arrest or making other misrepresentations on your application or to a consular officer may be grounds for making you ineligible to receive a visa.



Name Changes

In order to process a visa application it is required that the legal names of the petitioner and all applicants are verified. If any party has changed their name for any reason, documentation must be provided to verify their legal name. For example, if you were married, and changed your surname as a result of the marriage, a marriage certificate documenting that name change would need to be provided. The most common documents that are provided to track name changes are marriage certificates, divorce decrees, and deed polls.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- You need to be able to track the name changes of every person relevant to the case. For example, suppose an older married sister (Jane Doe) is filing for a younger married sister (Mary Smith) and had a mother in common (Sally Thomas). When Jane was born, Sally was not yet married and so the name Sally Jones appears on Jane's birth certificate. A marriage certificate for Sally Jones marrying Mr. Thomas would be needed. Furthermore, the marriage certificate for Jane marrying Mr. Doe would be needed as well as the marriage certificate for Mary marrying Mr. Smith. In this way, one would be able to trace the legal name changes and connections from the petitioner to the beneficiary: The petitioner Jane Doe is Jane Jones (via her marriage certificate), who was born to Sally Jones who is Sally Thomas (via her marriage certificate), who also gave birth to Mary Thomas who is the beneficiary Mary Smith (via her marriage certificate). Applicants often forget a piece or two to a chain like this. It may help to draw it out to ensure you have legal documents for each name change.



Financial Sponsorship

In most cases, each immigrant must have a sponsor. The sponsor promises to financially support the immigrant and promises to pay back the government if the immigrant uses certain types of government benefits (Read the full Affidavit of Support to understand a sponsor's obligations).

Each sponsor should have income of at least 125% of the poverty level ([see this table](#)) for how many people live in the household (plus all the people the sponsor has sponsored before and those dependent on the sponsor). So, for example, if a sponsor is married, has one child, has sponsored another immigrant, and is now filing for two people, the household size would be six (sponsor + spouse + child + previous immigrant + 2 current immigrants = 6).

Does the Petitioner make enough money to sponsor? If not, does a relative live at the same address who can combine their income with the petitioner to meet the poverty guidelines? If so, that person is considered a "household member" and may submit documents as noted below. If the petitioner does not meet the poverty guidelines even after adding household members' income, a joint sponsor will be needed and should submit documents as noted below. Also, see the list of common mistakes at the bottom of this section people make with financial sponsorship.

Petitioner – Required Documents

The petitioner (the U.S. person filing for the immigrant) **must** promise to support the immigrant even if the petitioner does not make enough money to support the applicant. The petitioner also must provide evidence that they have paid taxes or write a letter explaining why they do not file taxes.

- **Affidavit of Support – The Promise**
 - In most cases, this is the I-864
 - FIANCE(E): Only use the I-134 if you are filing for your fiancé(e)
 - Only use the I-864EZ if the petitioner is using just W2 income (and includes the W2s with the I-864EZ) and does not need a household member or a joint sponsor
 - Only use the I-864W if the principal applicant is a child under 18 and the petitioner is a U.S. citizen, the applicant is using 40 qualifying quarters of SSA, or for self-petitioning widowers.
- **Evidence Petitioner Makes the Money Claimed on the Affidavit**
 - Include a job letter to show the work is ongoing
 - Include a recent pay stub to show current earnings
 - Include W2 statements showing the total amount earned last year
- **Evidence of Taxes Paid**
 - The best evidence is usually the Tax Transcript available from <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript> (please note that this is not the same thing as a Tax Return!)



- Alternatively, include a copy of the petitioner's Tax Return (1040). However, if other documents such as the W2s are missing, a Tax Transcript may still be required. It is usually easier to just get the Tax Transcript (from IRS.gov) right away at the beginning.
- If the petitioner does not file taxes, the petitioner must include a signed letter explaining why they have not filed taxes.

Household Member – Required Documents

A household member may help sponsor an immigrant. A household member is a relative (spouse, adult child, parent, or sibling of the petitioner) who shares the same address as the petitioner.

- **Affidavit of Support – The Promise**
 - For a household member, the affidavit is the I-864A (not the I-864!)
- **Evidence Petitioner Makes the Money Claimed on the Affidavit**
 - Include a job letter to show the work is ongoing
 - Include a recent pay stub to show current earnings
 - Include W2 statements showing the total amount earned last year
- **Evidence of Taxes Paid**
 - The best evidence is usually the Tax Transcript available from <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript> (please note that this is not the same thing as a Tax Return!)
 - Alternatively, include a copy of the Tax Return (1040). However, if other documents such as the W2s are missing, a Tax Transcript may still be required. It is usually easier to just get the Tax Transcript (from IRS.gov) right away at the beginning.
- **Proof of Status**
 - Include a copy of the U.S. Passport, Naturalization Certificate or Green Card of the joint sponsor to proof they are permanent residents in the U.S. capable of sponsoring the applicant.



Joint Sponsor– Required Documents

A joint sponsor is used when the petitioner (plus any petitioner household members) does not make enough income to meet the poverty guidelines. A joint sponsor must meet the poverty guidelines individually; a joint sponsor's income is not combined with the petitioner's or with the household member's income. Note that if a petitioner's relative shares the same address as the petitioner, that relative is considered a household member (and must use a different form) and is not considered a joint sponsor.

- **Affidavit of Support – The Promise**
 - For a joint sponsor, the affidavit is the I-864 for most cases
 - For fiancé(e) joint sponsors, use the I-134
- **Evidence Petitioner Makes the Money Claimed on the Affidavit**
 - Include a job letter to show the work is ongoing
 - Include a recent pay stub to show current earnings
 - Include W2 statements showing the total amount earned last year
- **Evidence of Taxes Paid**
 - The best evidence is usually the Tax Transcript available from <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript> (please note that this is not the same thing as a Tax Return!)
 - Alternatively, include a copy of the Tax Return (1040). However, if other documents such as the W2s are missing, a Tax Transcript may still be required. It is usually easier to just get the Tax Transcript (from IRS.gov) right away at the beginning.
- **Proof of Status**
 - Include a copy of the U.S. Passport, Naturalization Certificate or Green Card of the joint sponsor to proof they are permanent residents in the U.S. capable of sponsoring the applicant.

Joint Sponsor's Household Member – Required Documents

A joint sponsor household member may help sponsor an immigrant and shares the same address as the joint sponsor.

- **Affidavit of Support – The Promise**
 - For a household member, the affidavit is the I-864A (not the I-864!)
- **Evidence Petitioner Makes the Money Claimed on the Affidavit**
 - Include a job letter to show the work is ongoing
 - Include a recent pay stub to show current earnings
 - Include W2 statements showing the total amount earned last year
- **Evidence of Taxes Paid**



- The best evidence is usually the Tax Transcript available from <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript> (please note that this is not the same thing as a Tax Return!).
- Alternatively, include a copy of the Tax Return (1040). However, if other documents such as the W2s are missing, a Tax Transcript may still be required. It is usually easier to just get the Tax Transcript (from IRS.gov) right away at the beginning.
- **Proof of Status**
 - Include a copy of the U.S. Passport, Naturalization Certificate or Green Card of the joint sponsor to proof they are permanent residents in the U.S. capable of sponsoring the applicant.

Common Mistakes / Be Aware

- Petitioners and/or sponsors forget to sign the Affidavit of Support. The Affidavit must include the original signature (not a photocopy of the signature!). Has everyone signed the document where they are supposed to, in ink (preferably blue ink)?
- Petitioners and/or sponsors forget to list all of the beneficiaries. For example, they remember to list the principal applicant but forget to list all of the children who are migrating. If everyone who intends to migrate listed on the sponsorship forms?
- The petitioner or household member uses the wrong form. The petitioner may use the I-864EZ in order to save time and effort, but if the petitioner does not meet the poverty guidelines, the petitioner must fill out the I-864 in order to use a household member or joint sponsor.
- Household members (relatives who share the same address as the petitioner) need to use the I-864A, not the I-864. Double-check that the correct form is used to save time later (or else you may end up having to wait for a new form to be mailed from the U.S. to Jamaica).
- The petitioner sends the Tax Return when they should have sent the Tax Transcript. Don't get these two documents confused. The **Tax Transcript** is requested here: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript> and is almost always the preferred tax document. Send the Tax Transcript to reduce possible delays later.
- The petitioner or joint sponsor forgets to include people they have sponsored in the past in their household size or forgets about dependents claimed on their taxes. We double-check these



numbers. It is better to save time by carefully counting everyone before submitting the document, and if the sponsor does not meet the poverty guidelines, find another sponsor. Check the math twice!

- The petitioner or sponsor sometimes has business losses that reduce their adjusted gross income below the poverty guidelines, and thus does not make enough to sponsor the immigrant(s). The adjusted gross income should be above the poverty guidelines for the household size.

Additional Resources

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/immigrant-process/documents/support.html>

<http://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/affidavit-support>



DNA Test Results

If a biological relationship cannot be shown through documentary evidence, the Consular Officer may ask for a DNA test to be conducted to determine the relationship between two parties. DNA kits must be ordered from the United States, and applicants will need to have a DNA sample taken at the U.S.

Embassy in Kingston. More information about DNA tests will be provided during the consular interview if a test is required.



Adoption Cases

To start filing for your adopted child, please contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by [clicking here](#). USCIS will help you decide which forms you need to file for your specific situation. For specific information on adoptions in Jamaica, please [click here](#).

All adopted children need an Immigrant visa to travel with their parents and begin their lives in the United States. They cannot travel to the United States on a visiting visa, since they intend to live in the United States. In order to get an immigrant visa for an adopted child, the Prospective Adoptive Parents need to file a petition for the child.

Parents who have already started their filing with USCIS and need to file their I-600 form can do that filing at the Embassy in Kingston. In order to do this, please email us at kingstoniv@state.gov and tell us that you need to file the I-600. We will contact you with more information on the filing process and what documents to bring to the Embassy with you, and will make an appointment for you to talk to a Consular Officer.

Once the petition is approved, each child will need to complete all same things that are required for any other immigrant visa application

Once again, the most complete resource for the international adoption process from Jamaica can be found at the [State Department's Adoption Site for Jamaica](#).

